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UNQUALIFIED SPECIALISTS, HEAVY PERSONNEL TURNOVER
PLAGUE MEAT AND DAIRY INDUSTRY

I. Sivola⁴

The Planning Section of the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry USSR (Narbut and Koroleva in charge) conducts planning inefficiently and does not carry out systematic checkups on the fulfillment of production plans by main administrations, trusts, and enterprises, despite the fact that daily checkups and comparisons of actual results with planned tasks are the most important functions of planning groups.

Bureaucratic methods of direction in planning have not yet been eliminated. Since compilation of balances for livestock and dairy products were not coordinated by the Planning Section of the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry, in many rayons the production plan did not correspond to the procurement plan. For example, use of available milk for processing butter was planned for only 42 percent of the available supply at the Kurek Trust of Rosglavmasloprodrom, for 53.4 percent at the Orel Trust, for 57.8 percent at the Tambov Trust, and for 37.2 percent at the Udmurt Trust. At a number of trusts of Rosglavmyaso (Arkhangelsk, Bashkir, Vladimir, Krasnoyarsk, Chelyabinsk) the meat-production plans were set at a lower figure for the first quarter of 1948 than for the first quarter of 1947 although available stocks of meat were greater in 1948 than in 1947. For the second quarter of 1948, actual output corresponded to planned output at almost none of the trusts of Rosglavmasloprodrom. At nine trusts actual output was substantially lower than the planned output, while at 21 trusts actual output exceeded that planned.

There have actually been cases in which the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry RSFSR drew up plans not only for lower output, but even for lower quality than had been set for the previous year. For example, in 1947 enterprises of Rosglavmasloprodrom processed 26.1 percent of milk products for "Ekstra" butter, whereas the plan for 1948 set 25.1 percent for the same commodity. The figure for dehydrated "Ekstra" butter was 57.9 percent for 1947, while the figure planned for 1948 was only 55 percent.

Output of meat in republic enterprises was 1.2 percent lower than in union enterprises in 1948. Rosglavmyaso and its trusts did not succeed in fulfilling their plans for fats, hides, and animal gut.

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Order No 357 of the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry USSR, dated 25 March 1948, provided for a plan to increase the raw material base of meat combines. The development of this plan dragged out for over 7 months, and the plan was not published until 20 November.

The approved plan had numerous defects. Many meat combines, especially in Ukrainian SSR, were completely omitted. The requirements in raw materials of republic meat combines were not adequately taken into account. The continuous movement of livestock was disrupted.

Almost two thirds of the economists working for the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry do not have any specialized practical training, and are even lacking in theoretical knowledge. Approximately half of them are under 30 years of age. Despite lack of training, no attempts have been made to increase the theoretical knowledge of these economists either by the Ministry as a whole, or by main administrations. The short-term courses which are conducted are primarily for accounting personnel.

Advanced training must be provided for economists and planners. The best specialists of the meat and dairy industry, in addition to professors and instructors of higher and middle educational institutions, must be used to train specialists for the institutions and enterprises of the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry USSR.

In 1947 and 1948, the turnover of economists with higher education was a shortcoming in the meat and dairy industry. In 1947, 24 young specialists with higher education entered this industry, but 75 specialists left. For 11 months of 1948, 75 specialists entered the industry, while 79 left. The number of economists with higher and middle school education must be increased rather than decreased.

General economists, engineers, and technicians as well as planning specialists must be trained in economics, economic organization, and socialist planning.

Whatever their branch of the economy, our managerial personnel must know the laws of socialist economy, especially of their own industry, and must be able to analyze problems of economics, finance, wages and cost accounting. We must assist in raising the qualifications and economic know-how of these men by setting up a training system, by developing correspondence courses, by supplying textbooks and supplementary reading, by organizing for exchange of experience, etc.

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